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Notes and News.

The President and the People.

President Wilson's arrival in Europe is felt on all sides to mark the beginning of a new era in the world's history. He has shown himself not only a deep thinker and a wise statesman, but above all a great popular leader. His messages are not only to Governments, they go right to the hearts of peoples. In the American Suffrage contest of last September he stepped down into the arena on the side of the women, because he held that the war and the peace to follow are the concern not only of bureaucracies and caucuses, but of the ordinary men and women of all nations. He said: "It is not alone the voices of statesmen and of newspapers that reach me, and the voice of foolish and intemperate agitators do not reach me at all. Through many, many channels I have been made aware what the plain work-a-day folk are thinking . . . . they think in their plain logical simplicity that democracy means that women shall play their part in affairs alongside men, and upon an equal footing with them." No newly enfranchised woman can read these words without responding and realising as never before her direct personal responsibility, not only for the war, but for the peace to follow. The Prime Minister has said to the women: "If you believe a man has war in his heart, do not send him to the Peace Conference." The President will soon land on these shores as the guest of the King. When he comes may he find not only smiles and flowers, but glowing in the hearts of our men and women that generous faith in the great ideals for which he stands, and for which our brave men have died, which shall ensure the federation of the world.

Women and the Peace Conference.

It is not only in this country that many people are feeling strongly that there should be woman delegates at the Peace Conference. The demand of the N.U.W.S.S. that there should be a woman among the British delegates is receiving support in other parts of the Empire. Mrs. Fawcett recently received a cable from Canada telling her that many Canadian women's organisations were pressing for this step, and would co-operate with the women in Great Britain. We understand that in America the same demand is being made, and that Mrs. Chapman Catt and Dr. Anna Shaw have recently spoken on the subject at public meetings in New York and elsewhere. Many representations are being made to President Wilson on the subject, and we earnestly hope that both he and our own Government will realise the importance of the demand and the keenness of women's feelings on the subject.

The Suffrage Situation in America.

Now that the women of Great Britain have to exercise the Parliamentary franchise for the first time they are watching with redoubled interest the struggle for women's suffrage in America. The enfranchisement of British women was a consequence of the war for freedom; it will be hard indeed if even the peace which is to make the world safe for democracy is not accompanied by the enfranchisement of American women; but we believe that it will be so accompanied. All the omens are favourable. Not only have votes for women been won in Michigan and South Dakota, but the favourable majorities were in each case greater than suffragists had dared to dream of: almost twenty-five thousand in Michigan and twenty thousand in South Dakota. The victory in Oklahoma was even more satisfactory, because it was won in spite of what appeared to be an almost impossible handicap. It had been decided that the suffrage amendment could only pass if it had a majority of all the votes cast, and that electors who did not vote must be counted as having voted against it. In spite of this surprising provision it passed. Strong hopes are entertained that the Federal Amendment will pass the Senate during the present Session of Congress, which began on December 2nd, and is to end on March 4th. The next session would not nominally meet until December 1919, though it is most probable that it will be called in special session by President Wilson some time before then. There will, however, be so many important questions arising out of the close of the great war and party passions are so likely to be roused that unless the amendment is passed now there is a danger that it may be side-tracked for some time to come. We understand, however, that the American people are a good deal impressed not only by the enfranchisement of British women but by the promise of full womanhood suffrage made by so many of the new Governments in the smaller nations of Europe which have recently gained their freedom.

The Emancipation of Indian Women.

Our readers will remember that the Indian National Congress which met to discuss the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, passed a resolution that women possessing the same qualifications as were laid down for men in any part of the scheme should not be disqualified on account of sex. This resolution, proposed by Mrs. Sarajini Naidu, was passed by an overwhelming majority in an assembly of some five thousand delegates. We understand that an attempt is now being made to leave questions concerning qualifications for the franchise in the hands of a Committee which has already been appointed in India. Unfortunately, members of this Committee are, with one exception, understood to have reactionary views on the subject of Women's Suffrage. It would be exceedingly regrettable if the whole matter were given over to this Committee, especially as the National Congress had already passed a resolution, "That so

far as the question of determining the franchise and the constituencies and the composition of the Legislative Assemblies is concerned, this Congress is of opinion that, instead of being dealt with by committees, it should be decided by the House of Commons, and incorporated in the Statute to be framed for the constitution of the Indian Government." We understand that the leaders of political parties in India and the workers for self-government are for the most part willing and even anxious to give equal rights to women. Some Englishmen are a little nervous, as they think that the backward social condition of Indian women may make them a dangerous element in political reforms. If, however, women are not included in these reforms, their position will be worse than ever; and the desire amongst them for an improvement in education and the marriage laws and other social matters is very noticeable at the moment, and cannot with any justice be overlooked. The British Government should consider the matter, and we hope that Mr. Montagu will give it his earnest attention. The women in England have worked for and won their freedom, and now they will naturally watch with intense interest and sympathy to see how the new developments are to affect their sisters in India.

Women at the Polls.

December 14th, 1918, ought to be a red-letter day for British women. Then their enfranchisement took effect. Prophecies, made sometimes lugubriously, sometimes with ill-disguised satisfaction, that few women would use their votes, were proved false. No authentic statistics are yet published (though in one district it is estimated that 85 per cent. of the women on the register polled); but it is universally agreed and emphasised in the press that large numbers of women voted, and that, in many constituencies, during a part of the day, they quite outnumbered the men. And for many women it was difficult to visit the polling booth: some had sickly babies who could not be taken out and could not be left; some had other urgent duties at home; the weather, too, was bad in many places. Nevertheless, women were determined to play an active part in the General Election. It is thus clear that women are not apathetic concerning politics; nor do we believe their interest to be confined to domestic politics: a few may be indifferent, but many hold as strong convictions as men on International and Imperial questions.

Babies and the Election.

The question of babies was important at this election in more ways than one. It was largely because women cared so much about babies that they were so anxious to have a vote, and it is for this same reason that they are anxious to have representatives of their own sex in the House of Commons. Mrs. How Martyn, at Hendon, was called the "Babies' Candidate." At Chiswick Mrs. Strachey's opponent made a bad mistake when he said that she ought to be at home looking after her children. Her reply that she wanted to get into Parliament in order to look after children was received with enthusiasm by large numbers of women and men. The electors in the constituency had the opportunity of judging whether their candidate's own children were suffering from her political activities, and much admiration was expressed for their flourishing appearance as they drove about the district. We hear that a great deal of interest has also been felt in the children of the women candidates for Stourbridge and for the Ladywood Division of Birmingham. The women electors naturally felt that mothers who had children of their own (whom they were obviously bringing up well) would be good people to deal with the laws which affect the nation's babies. In some cases, however, it was rather difficult for voters to know what to do with their own babies when polling day came. At present, things are not so arranged as to make it easy for the average working-class mother to leave her children in reliable hands while she goes about business outside her home. Saturday was, moreover, a wet day; but, in spite of this, many mothers managed to carry their babies with them to the polling station. One polling station we visited seemed at the moment to be full of babies. The policeman at the door took a genial interest in their arrival, and at their departure inquired with interest whether they had voted. Sometimes, however, the babies had to be left at home, and women canvassers did their best to convince the mothers that they were to be trusted to look after these precious charges. One mother did, indeed, announce that she would not trust her baby with anyone; but for the most part the women voters were quite ready to believe that the other women doing political work were as interested in babies as they were themselves, and that it was quite safe to leave them in their charge. This election has, we believe, done a great deal to convince people that babies and politics are both everybody's business.

A Woman Candidate for Kennington.

Mrs. Lucas, whose husband, the Unionist Candidate for Kennington Division, Lambeth, died last week, was almost immediately invited to contest the seat herself. She accepted, and the polling is fixed for December 24th. All will agree in thinking that Mrs. Lucas has by her decision done much to destroy the old but still living accusation that women are not as "sporting" as men.

Women as Actuaries.

The President of the Institute of Actuaries, Mr. Geoffrey Marks, showed himself to be a good feminist in his speech at a recent meeting of the Institute—a speech which was chiefly concerned with the admission of women on equal terms with men to this and other professions hitherto closed to them. There was always, he said, room in every profession for intellect, whether a man's or woman's, and the refusal to admit them had been due either to want of knowledge—a want supplied by the women's proof of their worth during the war—or to a prejudice on the part of men amounting to a denial of social justice. We heartily support Mr. Marks' contention. We recall a fine speech on the same topic made by a president of the Law Society, Mr. Samuel Garrett. Women certainly have good friends in the enemy's camp!

Women Railway Clerks.

At the private conference of the National Executive Committee of the Railway Clerks' Association, held at Birmingham on December 15th, the subject of the probable dismissal of large numbers of women clerks was discussed. The opinion of the Conference was that these clerks should be given permanent employment, so as to reduce the excessive hours of many of the office workers. The Conference made no pronouncement about equal pay.

Training as Wives.

We understand that the Women's Trade Union Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Labour has under consideration a scheme for giving domestic training to demobilised munition workers. According to War Office figures nearly 400,000 girls have been married to soldiers since the war, and 300,000 of these have no children, and probably no settled homes. It is thought likely that the majority of them have been engaged on war work for the past few years, and have had no opportunity of obtaining experience of domestic or family life. The scheme at present before the Demobilisation and Resettlement Committee is an emergency one for a domestic training course, residential and non-residential. For the former, centres will be set up in the hostels and canteens of munition areas, and the girls will be given lectures and practical demonstrations in all kinds of domestic work, infant welfare, and sewing. They will live in the hostels and be given a Government maintenance grant approximating in amount to the present out-of-work benefit. The centres for non-residents will be set up in large towns, so that the girls living in their own homes will be enabled to attend the classes. The duration of the course of training will be from three to four months, and all women who have registered themselves as unemployed at the Employment Exchanges will be eligible.

A Victorian Echo.

An echo of the Victorian era, of whose qualities, absurd and admirable, we have lately heard a great deal, came to us during the week before the Election. A certain Conservative Coalition Candidate (who happened to be the opponent of a woman), addressing a Women Citizens' Association, gave the desired answer to a question about equal pay, but proceeded to qualify his assent to the principle by showing that women's work is never of equal value with men's. Among other examples he cited that of a man who if he wanted a secretary to go about for him would always choose a man, supposing the salary to be the same in either case, because a man secretary could go about "unattended." This ingenuous argument calls up a delightful vision of women clerks, doctors, munition-workers, chauffeurs, factory inspectors, nurses and M.P.'s going about their business each "attended" closely by a lady's-maid or footman! We must, however, remind any who hanker after the "good old days" that even then it was only a very, very small proportion of the women who went about "attended." The working woman took, as she takes now, and as women of every class take, the risks of "going about alone," without even the safeguarding justice of equality before the Law, or equal pay. Women ask not for chivalrous care, but for justice.

STILL IN THY RIGHT HAND CARRY GENTLE PEACE.

BY MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

THE year just closing will ever be memorable as the year which brought to an end the greatest and most destructive war in history. It is the year of the Great Peace; and it is also the year of the enfranchisement of women. It seems to me not extravagant to trace a connection between these two events.

In the first place, the eyes of men have been opened and their hearts have been softened by the way in which both men and women instantly, at the outbreak of the war, sprang forward to offer all they had and were for the service of their country; and as the years of war went on their zeal and desire to serve never waned. It is my purpose here to speak of the women. Those who were trained, the doctors and the nurses, were the first to offer themselves; the work of the nurses was, of course, accepted at once and gladly; the work of the women doctors was rejected in this country, but accepted by France, Belgium, and Serbia, and that is why so many first-class hospitals, officered, by British women, were placed under the French Belgian, and Serbian, and not under the British Red Cross.

Suffragists at the outbreak of the war had an advantage over most other women from the fact that they were organised in their several Societies; it was the work of only a few hours to transfer our machine from the purposes of peace to the purposes of war. We had a big organisation in our hands with a skilled staff of experienced women, and we were therefore ready instantly to set this machine to work in various ways to sustain our country during the tremendous struggle. The services of women in different kinds of war work have been amply and generously recognised on a thousand platforms. I do not wish to represent that this transfer of our work from peace to war uses went through without dislocation of some of our machinery. But so strong was the current bearing women along to national service that we often found that members of our Staff who left us on account of their pacifist proclivities soon sought and obtained employment in organising and directing the work of women in the manufacture of munitions and other warlike activities.

There can be no doubt that the excellence of woman's work for the country, their adaptability and efficiency not only astonished the Man-in-the-Street, but converted him into a Suffragist. The foremost example is that of Mr. Asquith, who acknowledged in 1917 that in former years his mind had been "clouded by fallacies and sealed by illusions." Even the President of the Anti-Suffrage League, and the representative of the Government in the House of Lords, Lord Curzon, though not converted from his errors, was not prepared to back them by his vote, with the result that the woman's clause in the Reform Bill was carried in the Upper House by nearly two to one.

And so, in a very real sense, War, with its horrors and desolations, brought us our birthright of free citizenship, and already many other birthrights have followed in the train of this one essential thing. What I desire to consider now is whether we are justified in hoping and believing that the citizenship of women will strengthen the foundations of peace. Shall we, in our right hands, carry gentle peace? The answer to this question is not quite plain and simple. Many women are extremely quarrelsome and vindictive; they are as capable as men are of hatred, and of the blindness which hatred brings. If Hamlet could say of himself: "I am very proud, revengeful, ambitious," could not many women, when they look into their own hearts, say the same? Out of such passions war is born. Can we hope that human nature will ever be so much changed and purified that this monstrosity will never be brought to birth again. I have been to a good many election meetings lately and the women present have roared for the Kaiser's blood as loudly as the men. They also have as keen a desire that their own personal losses should be wiped out by German gold. A woman caught hold of me at one of the meetings and said, "I have lost three sons in the war; I shouldn't mind that if Germany is made to pay every penny the war has cost." I tried, but, I fear, with scant success, to make her pause and realize what she was saying. Such things make one's heart sink. Did she really mean that her sons' lives could be paid for with £ s. d.? Had we really won the war only to lose our own soul? This is the darker side of the question we are considering. Let us look now at some of its brighter aspects.

Throughout the animal creation, man not excepted, the male is the fighting sex. Birds in their little nests do not agree. All male creatures struggle with one another. And therefore to leave practically the whole of the control and government of the world in the hands of the fighters to the exclusion of the non-fighters must increase the risks of war.

Looking again at the chief protagonists in the great war just closed, one thing comes out clearly. The countries where the social and political power of women is greatest are Great Britain, the United States, and France; the countries where the social and political power of women is the lowest are Germany, Austria, and Turkey. And it is these last, without a shadow of doubt, which planned and provoked the war. The blood-guiltiness is on the heads of those nations, and among them, especially on Prussia, where the general subjection, both political and social, of women, was carried to its utmost depths.

This looks as if in those countries where women had a fair chance of developing their own special gifts and qualities the risks of war are diminished.

May I take specific instances in illustration of this view? I remember being so very much struck by a scene I witnessed in the Town Hall of Oldham on the day when Mrs. Lees was installed in office as Mayor. Before she appeared there was a most acrimonious quarrel, conducted with considerable want of restraint and with a complete absence of dignity, by members of the Town Council about the next succession to the Mayoralty. It was a squalid scene, full of pettiness and of lengthy discussion upon points of no real consequence to anyone. Then suddenly a complete change was witnessed. With almost magical rapidity the storm subsided, smiles succeeded frowns and sneers. Mrs. Lees entered, was decorated with the robes and chain of office, and proceeded to give her inaugural address. It was a change from howling to music, from empty wrangling over things that did not matter to a thoughtful consideration of the things that did matter; the health of the town, the welfare of the children, the creation of municipal amenities calculated in various ways to make Oldham, if not beautiful, at any rate less depressingly the reverse of beautiful. And, I thought, if the entrance of women into municipal politics can create this blessed change, what may we not hope from the future when the women in every sphere of activity will really come into their own.

I can give another example from Mrs. Oliver Strachey's election campaign in Brentford and Chiswick. On December 12th, an article appeared in *The Times* with the head lines, "Eggs at Brentford. Mrs. Oliver Strachey's Popularity." My first thought was, "Heavens! have they been pelting her with rotten eggs?" But I was wrong, as usual, as the White Queen said. At the end of a most charming article, written I know not by whom, but I venture to say by a literary artist, "the eggs at Brentford" were explained to be not the traditional election egg, stale and evil-smelling, but presents of fresh eggs from unknown sympathisers sent to convey good wishes and to aid the woman candidate in holding out. Could there be a more delightful contrast between the ancient and modern use of eggs in elections? If this is the eternal feminine in politics, shall we not all welcome it with enthusiasm, and hope that as women more and more become a power in politics they will in their right hands carry gentle peace.

Supporting a Woman Candidate.

(From a Correspondent.)

The General Election has not been very popular with most people, but to some of us the week that has just gone by has been the fulfilment of a dream. If we had been told three years ago that on the next polling day we should not only be voting ourselves, but that we should (some of us) be working for women candidates, we should have found it hard to believe! There are some of our Suffrage fellow workers whom I, for one, have always hoped to see in Parliament, but I confess that I have only dared to hope it for the younger ones, and that I have often thought drearily that years of toil were still between them and

the happy moment, and that when it arrived they would no longer be young. How glorious it is to know that this is not so after all, that no more generations of women will have to waste their lives in a struggle for the mere right to express themselves. Instead of that, they can begin at once to take their share in the constructive work they have always longed to do, and which is now called "reconstruction."

We hope and believe that several of the women candidates who were standing on Saturday are elected; till the 28th we cannot know. They have had to contend against manifest disadvantages. For one thing, the Women M.P.'s Bill was not passed till a date when most of the party associations had already selected their candidates, and few organisations were courageous enough to select a woman beforehand on the chance that she would be able to stand. Miss Mary Macarthur was indeed chosen in this way, but most of the other women candidates had to wait until the Bill was passed, and by that time there was already a great army of men candidates in the field. In many constituencies a popular sitting member was certain of re-election, in many others there were representatives of the Coalition who were already sure of official support; Liberals who were determined to stand *as* Liberals, and representatives of special groups like the National Party—all, of course, men. Even the Labour Party, which has always been consistent in its support of the political claims of women, could not risk many precious seats by bringing forward candidates who might in the end turn out to be disqualified for standing, by their sex. The women candidates, therefore, have either had to work with practically no machinery, as Mrs. How Martyn has bravely done in Hendon, or to come in at the last moment to such constituencies as were left.

The second electioneering drawback they have had to contend against is that they are nearly all independent in their views. It is true that, of the sixteen women standing, four describe themselves as Liberals and four as members of the Labour Party. But the Liberals who now stand outside the Coalition are not a pledge-bound party, and Labour, though unlike the other parties it puts forward a definite programme, does not exact pledges from those who come forward in its name. There is no need to do so, for its principles are so clear that only those who agree with them will call themselves Labour men or women. No woman candidate—except Miss Pankhurst—has asked for or received the Coalition ticket. Mrs. Oliver Strachey, a supporter of the Coalition policy, when told that in order to be an official Coalition candidate it was necessary to promise *never* to vote against the Coalition, felt that this was impossible to her and at once determined to stand as an Independent Coalitionist. She explained this to a meeting of six or seven hundred electors of Chiswick and Brentford on Friday night, and no one who was present could doubt their passionate approval. Yet her independence has probably cost her many votes among those who have not come in contact with her and do not understand the reason for it, as well as among the more ignorant portion of the electorate who have been debased by the abuses of the party system. Being an Independent is, indeed, only a drawback from the basest electioneering point of view. We hope that the time is coming when it will be no drawback at all, and we depend on the women candidates to bring it nearer. In the meantime, they must in some cases suffer for the purity of their politics, and, like Mrs. Strachey, be honoured by finding themselves on John Bull's black-list.

The last drawback that the women have had to face is that they are new to the work of standing for Parliament, and that those who would naturally be most eager to support them are new to the work of voting. The proportion of women who voted on Saturday seems, by all accounts, to have been very good indeed, much better than most of those who did not realise how the civic sense was growing in women seemed to expect. But we can safely say that thousands more would have voted if there had been a little more time for them to receive political education before the election, if the polling day had not been fixed on a Saturday just before Christmas, and if it had not been (most of the day) much too wet to take the babies out.

But as it was, it was very cheering, and those of us who had the great good luck to be able to spend the day in a constituency where a woman candidate was standing came away feeling a kind of elation that we have only known once or twice in our lives. I myself spent the day in Chiswick, and felt that I could not have had better fortune. Mrs. Oliver Strachey is not only one of the candidates supported by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, but she has been for some years Hon. Parliamentary Secretary of that organisation, and she is one of the women who has done most to gain Women's Suffrage. She has worked for it ever since she was little more than a child; she is now just of age for a vote. Those who have worked with her know the ability, the constancy, and the unfaltering faith which she has put into the struggle. Members of the N.U.W.S.S. will not need to be reminded of these facts, but perhaps only those who have actually worked in the office know how much the Parliamentary Secretary's statesmanlike qualities and determined toil did to get through the Suffrage Clauses of the Representation of the People Bill, and, indeed, to help the Bill itself to complete success.

The same characteristics which have made Mrs. Strachey such a reliable and delightful fellow worker in the Suffrage struggle have rapidly made themselves felt in Brentford and Chiswick. The extreme popularity of the new candidate has been noted not only by her supporters but by the London Press. *The Times* has indeed been enthusiastic on the subject, and those who have worked in the constituency feel that it has not said a word too much. Mrs. Strachey had not been in Chiswick two days before people began to know and to like her, and her final indoor meeting in the Town Hall on Friday night was a remarkable one. The candidates were asked many questions covering a very wide field, and many of them showing a great political sense on the part of those who asked them. Mrs. Strachey's answers, sometimes altogether serious, sometimes both humorous and serious, but always courteous, always swift and always apposite, were received with real delight by the audience. Colonel Morden (who is the official Coalition candidate, and professes to be a supporter of the Coalition policy) had issued a large and effective poster stating in bold scarlet letters that "A Vote for Strachey is a Vote for the League of Nations"! Mrs. Strachey naturally displayed this poster with pride, and explained that the League of Nations was what she did stand for before anything else. The audience listened with deep seriousness to her exposition of the policy of peace, and with almost equal agreement to her views on the equality of the sexes as a necessary part of democracy. She did not ask them to vote for her *because* she was a woman, though she admitted that at the present oent she thought it was an added advantage for a candidate, because the women's point of view was particularly needed in dealing with the great social questions before the electorate. The audience seemed to think so too, and they also showed quite clearly that they wanted her to represent them not *only* because she was a woman but because they felt that she was a strong and democratic candidate, one who would be faithful to her own views and to theirs, and would give them not only service but "her best judgment."

Mrs. Strachey's Committee Rooms were said by the impartial witnesses to be the liveliest Committee Rooms in London. Many old friends met there, members of the London Society for Women's Suffrage came forward gallantly to the fray. It was indeed largely owing to Mrs. Bustard, who has for some time been hon. secretary for the Chiswick Branch of the L.S.W.S., that a woman candidate was invited to stand in Chiswick. Much devoted voluntary work was done by members of the Branch and by other Londoners, some of whom came from distant constituencies in order to have the pleasure of doing voluntary work for Mrs. Strachey. It was like old elections in which we have worked transmuted "into something rich and strange." We could hardly believe that we were really ourselves, or that our candidate was really herself. We have worked for and against many candidates in the past, some we have liked and some we have not liked *much*, but none have we liked quite as much as this one!

Other workers in other women's constituencies no doubt felt the same. Rumours and messages reached us in the course of the day. In Battersea, where they had one of the oldest candidates (as we had one of the youngest), they were equally happy as suffragists in supporting one of the great figures of the women's movement. In Chelsea a teacher stood for teachers and equal pay for equal work. In Stourbridge, too, Miss Macarthur waged yet another battle for those women workers to whom she devoted her life. From Birmingham we heard that Mrs. Corbett Ashby's courage and charm had won her hosts of friends. She, like Mrs. Strachey, is one of the younger suffrage workers, and one of the youngest condidates. We heard that Miss Markham was very popular in Mansfield, where numbers of working men would go any distance and sit any length of time to hear her speak. We heard that she was amused at the turn of fortune and the change in her own views which had made her, (so long a leader of the Anti-Suffragists), one of the first Women Candidates for Parliament.

The women candidates are indeed of many kinds and hold many views. Probably no Suffragist could say with her hand on her heart that she wants them all to get into Parliament, but we

are all very anxious that some of them should, and your correspondent can say with *her* hand very much on her heart that she not only hopes but firmly expects that before long she will see Mrs. Strachey not only in Parliament, but taking a leading part in the affairs of the great nation which has been the first to recognise women as part of its people for imperial as well as domestic affairs.

Some Election.

From the point of view of women's emancipation, and what that means in a State, this has been *some election*, if the Editor will permit, and the readers of The Common Cause will lower themselves to understand so vulgar, so outworn a bit of slang. And she will permit it, for after all it *has* been some election, and this word is good American, and what America says must be right. Still, even America must not have it all her own way, so, growing bold, I will go one worse in the British tongue. In the bad old days of treating, honest Britons asking each other "What's yours?" meant something about whisky, Scotch or Irish. In not quite the same way we have all been asking our neighbours "What was yours?" meaning "Who did you work for in the Great Election? Was it Lord Robert Cecil, or Mr. Henderson, or the great little Welshman himself? Or was it none of these at all, but one of 'the other gentlemen'?" It being understood that "the other gentlemen" were the women candidates!

Why do I talk of women candidates as "gentlemen"? Because the election jargon rings in my ears still and *my* woman candidate at least was implicitly called a "gentleman" or a "fellow" more than once. "Will you vote for Mrs. D.?" Reply (very courteous and sweet): "Oh, I've voted for the other gentleman!" And again, "You should go to Mrs. D.'s meetings—*she* can answer questions—the other fellow can't answer them for nuts!"

Well, what *was* yours? Was it Miss Phipps of Chelsea, or was it "the youthful candidate with the wavy hair" (Mrs. Oliver Strachey), one of the popular favourites in the very best sense, not only of the press, but of the N.U.W.S.S. and of the public at large? Or was it a certain veteran fighter who has given her life to be spent among the workers within the sound of Big Ben? Mine she was, in her black lace mantilla, her Quaker-grey satin dress, her beautiful soft white Indian shawl with the blue border, all among the gasworkers and railwaymen of N.—B.—But *I* was an outsider, the people she belonged to were these men and the delightful old ladies in black Victorian bonnets and mantles, sitting with a dear gentle smile on their faces, at a political meeting for the first time in their lives. And not only to these, but to the younger women full of life and vigour, who snorted with rage because "It's such a shame we haven't got votes!"

That question of age is a delicate matter. Some of us did most of our canvassing, so called, in the street. Something rather like deerstalking, and here is the receipt: Take a quiet street, but not too quiet, watch the women coming back from shopping one by one. Don't hurry—seem leisurely and very polite. Choose those with rather thougtful, careworn faces: "Excuse me, good afternoon, have you thought about voting for Mrs. D. yet?" But the delicate matter is this. In the dull December light a careworn face looks older than it really is: close up to your victim (the victims are "willing" enough mostly) you perceive that she is still young, so you improvise, "Good afternoon—have your people thought about voting for Mrs. D.?"

In the evening on polling day, bold and experienced in the new art, we "speeded up" and entered the busy shopping thoroughfares, and took up a strategic position in the bright light of a fishmonger's bit of pavement—"Good evening, &c." Till at last the genial fishmonger cried, fearing for his trade, "Oh, they've *all* voted, they've *all* voted!" And the odd thing was, they had done so in perhaps eight out of every ten cases. Occasionally one would say, "I meant to vote, but have left my ticket at home," and happy she would be when told that she needn't have her "ticket" as they would look up her number for her at the poll. Some liked a bit of fun and would reply, "*Wouldn't* you like to know!" But they generally relented and whispered with a burst of delighted laughter, "It's all right, Miss, she's the one!"

The men liked a joke too. How they laughed when the candidate talked to them like a mother. "You know, my dear fellows, you mustn't mind my saying it, but we women look on you men like great children sometimes, especially when you are sick and sorry for yourselves. And you know no more than a child about a lot of the work that has to be done in this world either. I once knew a great, big navvy—the sort of man you wouldn't like to meet on a dark night alone—his wife fell ill, and I called at his house and found him trying to look after the children. 'What am I to do?' he moaned. 'They'll let me wash their hands, but they won't let me *touch* their faces!' So then I had to stay by and say severely, 'Now then, children you've got to be good and let father wash your faces!'"

Difficult things, children . . .

Me to a Male Voter: "Have you voted yet?"—*He*: "Oh yes, I've voted for Mrs. D." *Me*: "Has your wife been yet?"—*He*: "No, I want her to go, but you see there are the children." *Me*: "Couldn't you look after the children while she went?"—*He*: "Well, I've been thinking about that." *Me*: "You see, she needn't be away more than a quarter of an hour."—*He*: "That is so, and I've been thnking about it, because I want her to go, but you see they are *very* troublesome children."

Happily all the children in N— B— cannot have been equally troublesome, for quite large numbers of women came to the meetings. And how eager we were to get them! There is a pleasant story about Mr. Seymour Hicks. He was knocked down by a motor 'bus and sued for damages. In giving evidence, he said: "Then there came round the corner a great, enormous motor 'bus." The Magistrate asked: "Surely, Mr. Hicks, all motor 'buses are about the same size?" And Mr. Hicks rejoined from the depth of his heart: "This *seemed* a very, very large one." That is how we felt. The women are probably no larger, no more worthy than in 1913—yet they *seemed* so much larger, so much more important, just because of our point of view. "Was it a good meeting last night?"—"Very fair." "Wasn't it full?"—"Oh yes, quite." "Were there any disturbances?"—"No, very enthusiastic." "What was wrong then?"—"Oh, nothing really, only you see they were all *men*, nothing like so many women as at Monday's meeting!"

Yes, there was no doubt about the keenness of the women, and of the men too, who knew our candidate. But the time was very short and we must not be *certain* till the 28th. But we can think our thoughts.

Many of our workers stood outside the polling booths, and just one strange incident took place there that almost proves women really *are*, as our friends the anti-Suffragists used to say, "too emotional for politics." One quite charming lady allowed her heart to be touched by the sad spectacle of the opponent's official who, owing to bad organisation, had been kept at his weary post in the rain all day, and she insisted on performing his duties for him while he went to tea!

Our candidate would invite the women to wait to vote till the men were home from work, so that the family could go together. Somehow the family has taken on a new significance. Its relation to the State seems more full of meaning than before. The perambulator, the marketing basket—yet enough, we are all in holiday mood—but when we think of the new year and of the years to follow we do feel certain that in the future we shall see *what we shall see*, and that this was SOME ELECTION.

A. Helen Ward.

Some Polling-Day Humours.

Our village on the 14th was a diverting place. Entirely unable to keep away from the polling centre, I armed myself with a gigantic basket in order to preserve some vestige of domesticity, and remained in the market place. A few Suffragists, wearing their colours, were looking very light-hearted and gay. In marked contrast were the Antis. Inspired by an almost masculine sense of duty, their jaws grave and set, unsmiling, these women of the highest principle were making a bee-line for the polling booth. Gossip could not delay them. After they had voted, and not till then, they had time for a word with a friend. "For the first time of asking, I think,"

said a polite voice at my elbow. I turned and met a slightly ironic gaze. "No, no, Mr. ——, not the first time of asking, not by a very, *very* long way. The first time of *getting!*" "Have you put your vote in (*sic*)?" asked an Anti anxiously. "I have come all the way from Norfolk to vote, and am going back this afternoon. *There's* virtue for you." "Can you give a lift to a lame man?" enquired a leading Suffragist of a young woman who drove up in a Coalition car. "Well, I daresay, if my petrol holds out. Who's he voting for?" was the reply. "I *have not enquired*," replies the Suffragist, with marked coldness, entirely lost upon the other. So went the talk. Suddenly something happened to me! The sight of so many opponents toeing the line went to my head. I crossed the road and went up to one of them and deliberately opened fire. "I always think a woman's place should be the home," I remarked sturdily. With a sudden rush of warmth, she answered promptly, "Oh, are you of *that* way of thinking?" This was intolerable. Her words were almost an embrace! Hoist by my own petard, I blurted out: "*No!* I was *always* a virulent Suffragist!" Her face suddenly made me think of a burnt-out match. No doubt she, too, felt that, like a "mystery ship," I had let down my sides and fired upon a defenceless victim! Yet was she, too, not returning from the poll? Pondering, not for the first time the psychology of the Anti, and its shameless, almost indecent lack of any rags of humour I returned to the domestic hearth. Immediately the telephone bell rang, and a friend's voice enquired: "I say, I'm just going in to vote. D'you think it will make the hens stop laying and put the kitchen fire out?" "Well, if it does," I replied, "We'll look in Mrs. Humphry Ward's 'Advice to Voters,' and see what *she* says."

* * *

Alas, it must be confessed: When I emptied out my basket my cook shook her head, "It's too late to cook *that*, 'm; besides, you ordered something else!" (Are the Antis right after all?)

"Also Ran."

Notes from Ireland.

Writing two days before the election, it is still impossible to predict any results. In the "rest of Ireland" women are found in the Sinn Fein movement in quite the same proportion as men. Some have been driven into that movement by continued official neglect of social reform, a neglect for which both official parties will pay at this election. Those real unnoticed Irish grievances which have so much helped the Sinn Fein cause are just those which women realise most keenly. The position of the teacher, the story of the Irish Education Grants, the tale of the Irish Poor Law, with its enforcement of the workhouse system, are but instances of social evils which might have been easily remedied by legislation had politicians really cared about these matters. As it is, they furnish excellent copy for Sinn Fein propaganda. The women who have joined Sinn Fein for these reasons may be in the minority, but they are for the most part over the magic age of thirty, and will count in the election. The effect of the admission of women to the franchise can easily be traced in the election addresses, which simply bristle with references to social reform. The only difficulty for a woman voter apparently will be to choose, since every candidate promises those things on which her heart is most set. She will naturally choose the political party whose programme in other respects commends itself to her, and for this reason the advent of the woman voter will make little difference in the relative position of parties in Ireland.

The situation in Belfast is somewhat different. Until this year Belfast knew but two parties, and the war cry, "We won't have Home Rule," rallied workman and employer alike to the Unionist ranks. Shipyard and mill workers turned out in tens of thousands on the glorious "Twelfth" to demand maintenance of the Legislative Union as the only safeguard for their civil and religious liberties, without one treasonable thought of demanding shorter hours of labour or less disgracefully inadequate provision of schools. The Nationalist minority was more in touch with Labour, and Mr. Devlin has often been termed the "Member for Belfast," since he alone appeared to concern himself actively with the betterment of conditions.

Things are indeed changed. There are twenty-four candidates for the nine Belfast seats. Sinn Fein has carried out its threatened invasion of Ulster and is contesting every seat in Belfast; in one division, indeed, it is a straight fight between Mr. Devlin and the "abstention from Westminster candidate." Among the eight official Unionist candidates are three representing the recently formed Unionist Labour Association. The formation of this Association is a sign of the changed attitude of official Unionism towards Labour, but the decision as to personnel and number of candidates remains with the official body, a fact of which the rival organisation, the non-party Labour Representation Committee, makes much capital. Four seats are contested by the latter, and on November 30th the Ulster Hall, whose precincts were once dedicated to preaching the gospel of "No Home Rule," "No Surrender," and "The glorious, pious, and immortal memory of William of Orange," was crowded with supporters of the Labour candidates, amongst whom were many women. The tale of twenty-four is completed by two Independent Unionists and one "Lone Wolf," a representative of the Seamen's Union. All except the "abstentionist" candidates have been approached by the Women's Political League*, and have accepted its programme with resignation rather than horror. Sir Edward Carson pleaded want of time to receive a deputation, but the main points in the League programme are, as a matter of fact, covered by the "Closer Union with Great Britain" formula. Sir Edward is silent as to his reasons for ignoring such matters as child welfare in the days before enfranchisement, but lesser lights give away the case with refreshing frankness:—"It be's to be."

In one Ulster rural constituency there has been an unexpected development. A non-party candidate has come forward in opposition to both the official nominees, with the support of women's organisations, the Federation of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors, and Labour bodies. Very successful meetings have been held with representatives of the Women's Political League and of the Irishwomen's Civic Federation among the speakers. In these meetings the soldiers, the Labour delegates and the women represented non-party and non-sectarian organisations. At one meeting a man from the Connaught Rangers told how he had helped the men of the Ulster Division to carry Willie Redmond into shelter, and that he was not going to fight in Ireland the men who had stood shoulder to shoulder with him in the trenches. A soldier, wounded in the cheek, was stoned while speaking by some in the crowd for supporting the non-party candidate, and exclaimed, "I'm as guid an Or'ngeman as any o' ye. See here, I hae Welliam of Or'nge tattooed on ma breast!" throwing back his tunic to let them see the work of art. Another told how an Australian chum, watching the barefoot boys selling newspapers in the streets of Belfast, said: "If this is the sort of thing you people have at home, the less we in the Colonies have to do with you the better. It wasn't for a country like this we came to fight." These men have come back to Ireland, not to carry on party feuds, but to make their country one of which they need not be ashamed.

The Labour men in this constituency, as in Belfast, said scornful things of the conversion of the Unionist leaders to a programme of social reform, and, like the soldiers, pleaded for the co-operation of Irish men and women in the common cause. The women speakers also have mocked at the conversion to feminist principles of both the official parties, but they felt that enough dragon's teeth had been sown in Ireland, and only urged the men to help them in real work for the welfare of the country. In the fight for the Suffrage, Irishwomen have stood shoulder to shoulder, as did the Irishmen in the trenches. It is significant that the same "Programme for Women Electors in Ireland" set out in leaflet form is being used in such widely different centres as Sligo, Belfast, and Waterford.

The candidate in this case was one of those who championed the Suffrage cause from the very first, when Suffragists had no need to pray for deliverance from the fate awaiting those of whom all men speak well. He spoke at the first Suffrage meeting ever held in the district, and has remained a firm friend through all the struggle. He stands in this election as a representative of "Soldiers, Women, and Labour," to quote from his election address. He may be defeated at the poll, for party spirit runs high in Ireland, but the women and the soldiers and the workers will be grateful to him for his courage. It is a combination which has great promise for the future, since it will attack those sources of unrest from which the revolutionary party draws its strength.

The official parties are breaking up: the "Constitutional" and the "Revolutionary" Nationalists are opposing each other all over Ireland; Southern Unionists are in revolt against the "closer union of Ulster with Great Britain" programme of Sir Edward Carson. Captain Stephen Gwynn, himself a returned soldier, and in the earlier days one of the few Suffragists in the Irish Parliamentary Party, is appealing for some solution on the Federal lines. The non-party movement, initiated by the

* The W. P. L. was, until 1918, the Belfast Women's Suffrage Society

Suffrage Societies, has in it the promise and potency of a happier future; it will be occupied with realities, not with dreams of some sudden change by which the Kingdom of Heaven will be established on earth without any special effort on the part of anyone. It will follow the counsel of the Belfast working woman voter: "Och, wumman dear, now that lwe hae the vote we'll see that they quit bletherin' about a Parlyment in Dublin, and gie us decent houses to leeve in and schools for the weans!"

DORA MELLONE.

Juvenile Employment after the War.

The present juncture appears as an unequalled opportunity for retrieving the position of the young industrial workers and redressing the wrongs that have been inflicted on them by a commercialised civilisation. This remark may appear unduly optimistic, but we do not ignore the many complications and difficulties of the position. The necessity for adapting almost the whole industry of the country so that it should render the services indispensable for the running of the military machine, has quickened and intensified industrial evolution and has been unfavourable to the best interests of young workers. Boys and girls have gone into unaccustomed work, sometimes beyond their strength and capacity, boys replacing men, girls replacing women and boys. Much of this employment has been of a disadvantageous kind. The paramount motive was to secure the largest possible output, machinery involving repetition work was introduced and extended on a huge scale, and the opportunities for learning a skilled trade decreased. Long hours and frequent night work have put a heavy strain on the immature powers of the adolescent. This condition has been to some extent masked by the better food which higher family earnings made possible during the war, but it is bound to have its effect one way or another. Already we hear that cases of breakdown are not infrequent, and juvenile workers in munition factories leave work so often as to suggest that they are unable to stand the strain.* These evils cannot be supposed to be compensated by the high earnings many boys and girls have received. It is short-sighted to measure the advantages of juvenile employment by the amount of present earnings, for, in the natural course of things, the best earning-power, the highest efficiency of young people is in the future, not the present. In the present what is important is, first, healthful conditions of work, short hours with properly adjusted pauses for rest and meals, good ventilation, cleanliness, good light, and so forth; secondly, that the work should be, as far as possible, educative, or if that cannot be, that it should be combined with some provision of education carried on concurrently with the work. If these conditions are not fulfilled, injury to physique or character or both must result, and high wages, which to the immature may even be a disadvantage, cannot make up for the harm that may be done.

In many kinds of factory work young people are greatly desired by employers, and the demand for their labour tends to raise their wages relatively to those of the mature, an altogether unsatisfactory state of things. For these and other reasons, almost all modern States, since the introduction of machinery and the factory system, have taken steps to interfere with the supply and regulate the conditions of labour by children and young persons. Economic forces, or the "law of demand and supply," cannot possibly adjust the matter without grave injury to the national life. Hence the long series of Factory Acts and Education Acts, which have been most useful, but, unfortunately have erred on the side of timidity, and fail to do what is really necessary. Mr. J. L. Paton, writing in the invaluable Year Book of the W.E.A., says the proportion of boys and girls receiving secondary education in England is "painfully inadequate when compared with the number in any other European country that could claim to be progressive." The Report on Juvenile Education in relation to Employment after the War† gives figures showing the percentage of young people who are receiving full-time or part-time instruction.

Ages	14—15	15—16	16—17	17—18
Percentage in Full-time Course...	12	4	2	1
Percentage in Part-time ditto ...	16	14	13	10
Percentage unenrolled	72	82	85	89

Parsimony is not usually considered a national characteristic, but what extraordinary stinginess, or apathy, is to be seen in these figures! Mr. Arnold Freeman says that—

"in future ages they will scarce believe it of us. Our neglect of adolescence will be looked back upon as the consummate instance of the communal crimes for which we shall be despised." ‡

In old times the institution of apprenticeship to some extent supplied the place of schooling, and it still survives in some industries. Apprentices are employed, not for immediate profit, but in order to recruit the trade with the skilled workers who will be needed later on. This is the ideal form that adolescent employment should take, but, unfortunately, apprenticeship has become largely out of date under modern conditions, and even in the industries where it survives, it no longer affords a complete training. In some cases the age of apprenticeship is later than the school-leaving age. This gap is apt to be filled by resorting to employment of a more or less casual nature, and when the boy starts on his five of seven years' apprenticeship, he may very likely have lost the good habits instilled at school, and have developed bad ones. Moreover, under the present rapidly changing conditions of industrial technique, the skill laboriously acquired in apprenticeship may be rendered useless or unnecessary by some change in the organisation of industry. Much worse, of course, is the position of the child or young person flung into casual work or "blind-alley" employments. Such children pass into the labour-market, take up one job after another, and are valued by their parents for the money they bring home; but they receive no skilled industrial training, and their employment may not lead even to unskilled work of a regular description. All goes well, apparently, until they are older, say eighteen or nineteen, and begin to want a man's wages. They are then dismissed, not necessarily for any fault or inefficiency of their own, but simply because the industry is organised on such lines that adult workers are either not desired, or only in so small a proportion that the majority of juveniles become superannuated after a very few years, and are replaced by younger boys and girls. "The rest drop out, to become general labourers at the best, or at the worst, to join the ranks of the permanently or intermittently unemployed."§

The war has not created this state of things, but undoubtedly has intensified it. The enormous demand for labour, with the glamour of patriotism added as an inducement, has withdrawn many children even earlier than usual from school, and opportunities for training, as well as the influences normally making for the social improvement of girls and boys, have been less. Long and exhausting hours of work have also had a bad effect. In many districts there has been a noticeable lowering in tone and an increase in gambling and immorality. It must be feared that when the process of demobilisation is in full swing, there will be considerable dislocation, and this process of re-adaptation and reorganisation of industry may be attended by much friction, aggravated by the lack of training and discipline in recent years.

In spite of these and other untoward factors in the situation, there are grounds for hoping that the present is a great opportunity for a new and better departure. For one thing, most adult wages have risen, and if parents are better paid they will have less need and less excuse for sending children to work. Moreover every family, very nearly, will have a member who is a man trying to get back to some decently paid job, or will at least have friends in that position; the disadvantages of juvenile competition will be easily realised. The demobilisation of soldiers and munition workers thus offers an exceptionally good opportunity for restricting the employment of the young and reserving some of their time for instruction, exercise, and recreation, before they appear on the labour market. A third, and we would fain believe a powerful consideration, is that the sacrifices of war and the great fight made for ideal aims, the freedom, justice and honour that were imperilled in 1914, will have induced a changed outlook in regard to our responsibilities towards the young. The Report on Juvenile Education after the War, after setting forth the evils and anomalies of the present position of young workers in industry, says:—

"What, then, are the remedies? In a sense there is only one remedy. . . . Nothing less than a complete change of temper and outlook on the part of the people of this country. . . . Can the age of adolescence be brought out of the purview of economic exploitation and into that of the social conscience? Can the conception of the juvenile as primarily a little wage-earner be replaced by the conception of the juvenile as primarily the workman and the citizen in training? Can it be established that the educational purpose is to be the dominating one during those formative years between twelve and eighteen? If not, clearly no remedies at all are possible in the absence of the will by which alone they could be rendered effective."

This is what we need: a quickened sense of social duty and a more intelligent conception of what that duty consists in. If ever we are to attain it surely now is the moment. For the infinite neglects of the past we are as a community responsible. What are we going to do to mend our ways for the future?

In the first place, it seems to be fairly well established that the blind alley employments cannot be abolished. Of course,

* R. Bray. "Problem of Juvenile Employment after the War," p. 2.
† Cd. 8,512, 1917. 6d. net.
‡ "W. E. A. Year Book," p. 179.
§ Report on Juvenile Education after the War, p. 4.

whatever can be done in individual cases to secure apprenticeship and training for a skilled trade is all to the good, but such means do not touch the broad social problem. Unskilled work is as necesary as skilled; repetition work and dilution, although they are profoundly regrettable as a degradation of the old craftsmanship with its fine pride in acquired skill and honourable traditions, are absolutely necessary for production on a national scale. The problem is to develop the social control and sense of responsibility that must perforce take the place of the old personal relation of master and apprenticeship. For the handling of this question in its special relation to the present problem of the demobilisation of young workers, Mr. Bray, well known as an expert who has given a large part of his life to the consideration of child and adolescent labour, has drawn up a memorandum which makes the following suggestion. In the first place, Government work must not be suddenly wound up, so as to flood the Exchanges all at once. The process of discharge must be gradually effected. The Employment Exchanges should have early information of the coming discharges so as to have an office on the spot ready to deal with the matter. Employers who, on the other hand, are demanding juvenile labour should be urged to make their wants known to the Employment Exchanges. Juvenile Advisory Committees should arrange for meetings of employers and trade-unionists so as to consider the problem in all its bearings and with regard to any special local difficulties. These measures (with others for which the memorandum should be consulted) are concerned with easing the transition. There remain some further proposals for limiting the supply of juvenile so as to increase the demand for adult labour. The work done by children still attending school may be further restricted: the exemptions for school attendance might no longer be granted to children below 14; young persons under 18 may be urged to attend classes pending the coming into force of the Act of 1918. A great deal of work can be done by "After Care" workers and by the members and staff of Juvenile Advisory Committees in preparing the way for these changes, and in persuading the young people that their best ultimate interests will be served by putting up with reduced earnings combined with a further period of schooling. For reasons already given, parents will probably be more ready than ever before to see the wisdom of this course. On the other hand the natural objection of youth to a restriction of money and independence may perhaps be overcome by setting up counter-attractions. This brings me to my last point: what is to be the subject-matter of the teaching it is proposed to give in Continuation Schools? I should be inclined to give the preference very strongly to such means as will develop the general intelligence and adaptability of the scholar. And in the case of girls I hope most fervently the training will not be too exclusively domestic. We may be on the verge of far-reaching changes in the organisation of domestic life, and even if conservative methods persist, habits of quick and accurate observation, readiness, trained dexterity of hand, are often more useful than the mere learning to do particular things which may not after all be the particular things demanded. Like other people, I have listened to much discourse by many persons on the inefficiency of domestic workers, but (luckier perhaps than some) I remember once hearing a profoundly sagacious remark on the subject. "Why," said a friend of mine, "why do the schools not teach girls *to think*? I can teach my own work better than the school can teach it, but I want a girl who has learnt to use her mind." It seems to me that this observation is of significance much wider than its reference to domestic work especially. The comparatively new institutions of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, with such means as holiday camps and so forth, are of use in developing powers that the too mechanical methods both of industry and education leave dormant. The work of the recently constituted Juvenile Organisation Committees is of interest in this connection, but to that I hope, with the Editor's permission, to return on a future occasion.

Correspondence.

WOMEN AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Madam,—I see it stated in the press here that the N.U.W.S.S. intends to ask for representation for women at the Peace Conference. If this is a correct statement, I should like to make clear my dissent from the demands. The Peace Conference will consist of delegates of the Allied countries, of the United States of America (an associated Power), and of the new countries to be established or claiming freedom I feel strongly that all these delegates should be the instructed delegates of their Governments, expressing only the demands and desires of their people.

Our delegates will go in this way, and they will be the expression of our freely expressed will as electors, as well as our men's. To claim that a woman should go—as woman—is, I think, to make a claim that is contrary to the whole spirit—the united will of a people—that we desire to see expressed—and it is as undesirable as to have any man come to the Peace Table with unrestricted personal powers, against which there should be the strongest opposition. Nothing personal and nothing sectional should be represented, and I regard our demand as sectional and unnecessary. The question of the League of Nations is a separate question, and it may well be that views and interests could argue a very different case in relation to it, but even for the initial steps for that I hold that the only position for a democratic country to take is that its representatives should be the choice of its whole people, and of nothing else.

Helen Fraser.

EQUAL PAY.

Madam,—I note that the new N.U.W.S.S. Programme includes the support of "economic equality" between men and women, and as this will doubtless be interpreted by many as meaning equal piece rates in industry, I should like to bring to your readers' notice a point which is usually ignored by those who support "equal pay for equal work."

The point is that wages form only a part of an employer's expenses, and that "Overhead" charges—*i.e.*, the cost of management, of machinery, of lighting, of power, &c., are of even more importance since they are more variable. Every employer does his best to reduce these expenses, and if any class of workers absorbs more than its fair share of them, it will be proportionately less valuable to the employer even if its output per hour or per day is equal to that of any other class. This is a truism to persons with any knowledge of factory management, but as there are many persons debating the question of equal pay for equal work who know little of industrial organisation, I will give one or two instances to make the matter more clear. A bad timekeeper may be a good worker, but if his absence leaves idle a machine which has cost £1,000, and which, therefore, it is important to keep running the maximum number of hours, he is less valuable than a man who keeps better time. Continuity of service, too, is a matter which affects overhead charges. Every worker costs a firm from 10s. to 30s. before he even enters the factory (in clerical work, stationery, &c.), and he costs almost as much when he leaves. It is obvious, therefore, that the longer an employee stays the cheaper he is.

Then there are personal qualities such as ambition, initiative, adaptability. An employee with ambition is valuable as a potential charge hand; an employee with initiative because he tries to effect improvements: an employee with adaptability because he can be put on half-a-dozen different jobs.

Now, supposing that women are inferior as a class to men in these respects, it is certain that employers will always prefer to employ men even if women are capable of giving an equal output. There are no doubt many people who will scout the notion that women are not as satisfactory employees as men in every respect, but my own experience, though necessarily limited, leads me to believe that this is so. For two years I have been associated with three engineering factories employing equal numbers of men and women (6,000 of each) and I am convinced that women are worse timekeepers, leave their employment more frequently, have less ambition, and show less initiative and adaptability than men. I do not say that any of these disabilities are inherent or ineradicable, but they do exist, and employers are perfectly aware of their existence.

When you add to these disabilities the fact that female labour costs more by reason of the various regulations laid down by the Home Office, and that there is a certain amount of natural sex feeling amongst employers which makes them prefer employing men to women, it becomes clear that if equal rates are demanded for men and women, employers will invariably employ men. I therefore ask everyone who is interested in this question to look at it from a practical point of view and realise that if this point is carried the result will be to close all the better paid trades to women.

We are not dealing with an economic theory, but with the bread and butter of hundreds of thousands of women workers, and it behoves us to move very warily in case we succeed in doing just what we wish to avoid. We have got to remember that although the law can control wages it cannot make an employer employ women, and as far as the engineering trade is concerned, it is absolutely certain that equality of rates will mean relegating women to a few badly paid jobs.

Cicely Leadley Brown.

WOMEN POLICE.

Madam,—Will you allow me to remove what may cause serious inconvenience to those who may have read Miss Peto's letter in your last issue. The Women Police Service is supplying practically all the demands that there are in the United Kingdom for Women Police, and there are at present enough, and more than enough, trained policewomen to fill every available post open to women police. The demobilization of units of policewomen working in munition factories has thrown a large number out of work. They are trained and experienced women and fully capable of taking work under any Chief Constable or police authority.

It seems to me to be more fair to place these trained women before asking for recruits to train for posts which do not yet exist.

M. Damer Dawson (Commandant, W.P.S.).

THE VOTE AND SHOP ASSISTANTS.

Madam,—Some weeks ago you commented on the case of women shop-assistants who, employed by Mr. Ormond, draper, at Stoke Newington, had on appeal been refused the vote because they were living in. This matter has been of serious disability to our men members for many years past, thousands having been disfranchised on this account.

Our organisation was one of the first to call for adult suffrage both for men and women in this country, and now that it has been partially secured, the same disability, unfortunately, still exercises with respect to our women members, and this only makes the situation worse.

We have through our Branches submitted the following five questions to all the Parliamentary Candidates throughout the country:—

1. Are you in favour of the legal limitation of the hours of labour for those employed in the Distributive Trades to forty-eight per week?

Would you favour an amendment of the Shops Act, giving Shop Assistants, the same as in Australia and New Zealand, the right to vote upon the regulation of hours for opening and closing of shops?

3. Are you in favour of all those men and women employed in the Distributive Trade, "living in," being granted the right to vote the same as those who live out?

4. Are you in favour of the extension of the Trade Boards Act to the Distributive Trades?

5. Are you in favour of the living in system being abolished for all Distributive Employees, as recommended in the Minority Report of the Committee on Truck?

You will see that one of them is to ask whether the candidate is in favour of all those men and women employed in the distributive trades, living in, being granted the right to vote, the same as those who live out. The whole position is an anomaly, and as already mentioned, has only been made more glaring now that some women under certain circumstances have been granted the franchise.

JOHN TURNER,
(General Secretary, National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants.)

WOMEN AND DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—The reply to my letter in your columns of November 29th, which appears in your issue of Dec. 6th, tempts me to make some further remarks on the subject of domestic service as an employment for many thousands of the women now set free from munition work. Notwithstanding the perversion of my remark by your correspondent "M." I repeat that unless many of them do go back to domestic service, family life in England will come to an end altogether; but I did not say or suggest that the old iniquitous system should be restored. That the domestic must in the majority of cases live in the house of the employer is, I believe, unavoidable. The proposed system of uniformed House Orderlies provides assistance only supplementary to that which is indispensable in the great majority of homes. In the first place, it is obvious that it is practicable only in towns. Nothing of the kind is possible in country houses, nor in villages and suburban districts in which the houses are scattered widely, not even in places, say, like Ealing, where the distance between the hostel and the places of employment would necessarily be considerable.

The orderly, moreover, cannot replace the domestic employee in other cases. For example, a man who goes to business must have his breakfast before leaving home for the day. He can scarcely be expected to extend his day's work by lighting the fire and making breakfast for himself. Nor would it be fair to ask his wife to do this for him if she is not very strong, or has children to look after. And I apprehend if the House Orderly is to be employed, there are not many householders who would be willing to entrust the latch-key to a stranger for regular use every morning.

I agree with your correspondent "M." that we are now suffering for the sins of former, and perhaps one must admit quite recent, generations of mistresses. It is quite true that the domestic servant has in many cases suffered not only from a sense of social inferiority, but from overwork and too great restriction of liberty. These disadvantages have, however, not been universal, nor in more recent years can it be said that they have been at all general, while the rate of wage has advanced far more rapidly than the rate of pay to assistants in shops and offices. In the latter case, competition has tended to keep down the figure, and to eke out the pittance earned, many girls undoubtedly seek other sources of income which their best friends would consider to be at least undesirable.

But all "places" are not bad or burdensome in respect to housework, or attendance on the bell and the mistress. To all appearance, the girls one sees at the door of even very modest establishments look healthy, well fed, and cheerful. All that you can get out of them in conversation as to the present dearth of servants is that, having tasted an outdoor life and more liberty, their friends who have been making munitions and doing other war work declare that they do not intend to go back to domestic work.

But what are they to do? If they all seek to be clerks or shop-assistants or to get into banks or government offices, in a year or two there will be a fierce competition among the crowds of young women and many older ones who form the unwanted surplus after all such posts have been filled.

It seems to me that the time has come when there should be called into existence, if it does not already exist, some organisation qualified to speak on behalf of the domestic employée, and that the conditions which would render domestic service less unpalatable to those who are forced to enter it should be definitely laid down. The war has taught us all many things, and among them that we can do without many things which were previously customary and taken as a matter of course. We are all the better in most cases for the system of rationing food, and I venture to think we should do very well to help ourselves a good deal more than we have been accustomed to.

People who from choice or circumstances must see a great deal of company and desire to entertain frequent visitors, must learn that they must do it only at an increased cost, and if the servants' working hours are to be limited, as they should be, that an increase of staff is necessary. But speaking as an employer whose domestics have been in the same service for upwards of six years, and appear contented, I say let the young domestics now set free from munitioning formulate the fundamental conditions which must be modified to suit them, and if they are moderate and reasonable, my belief is that no difficulties will be raised by employers.

But the girls must remember that if they are going to dictate terms they must offer in return for pay and privileges a fair degree of efficiency and readiness to oblige.

W. A. T.

FRIENDS OF ARMENIA

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Chairman and Hon. Treasurer: E. W. BROOKS, Esq. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. MARY HICKSON. Office Sec.: Miss B. HICKSON.

The "Friends of Armenia" are rejoicing at the near prospect of freedom from the Turkish yoke for the people of Armenia. But the sufferings of the refugees during the next months will, in any case, be intense.

FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

for the opening of Orphanages, rebuilding of homes, clothing and feeding the people, and later for the organising of industrial work among the adults.

Please help us with a gift for the Relief Fund, or by purchasing lace-edged linen handkerchiefs, made by Armenian Refugees at the Camp at Port Said. Prices varying from 1s. 5d. to 3s. 3d., and specimens will be sent on application

Gifts will be gratefully received and should be sent to E. W. BROOKS, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, Friends of Armenia, 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "L.C.W. and Parr's Bank," and Treasury Notes Registered.

Please mention THE COMMON CAUSE.

Reports, Notices, etc.

WOMEN CANDIDATES.

*Mrs. W. C. Anderson (Miss Mary Macarthur), Worcester, Stourbridge (Labour).
*Mrs. M. C. Ashby, Birmingham, Ladywood (Liberal).
Miss M. Carney, Belfast, Victoria (Sinn Fein).
Mrs. Carruthers (Miss Violet Markham), Notts., Mansfield (Liberal).
Mrs. Despard, Battersea (Labour).
Mrs. Dacre Fox, Richmond (Independent).
Miss Alison Garland, Portsmouth, South (Liberal).
Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Manchester, Rusholme (Labour).
Mrs. J. McEwan, Middlesex, Enfield (Liberal).
Mrs. H. M. Mackenzie, University of Wales (Labour).
Mme. Markevicz, Dublin, St. Patrick's (Sinn Fein).
Mrs. How Martyn, Middlesex, Hendon (Independent).
Miss E. G. Murray, Glasgow, Bridgeton (Independent).
Miss Chrystabel Pankhurst, Smethwick (Women's Party).
Miss E. Phipps, Chelsea (Independent).
*Mrs. O. Strachey, Middlesex, Brentford and Chiswick (Independent).
* Asterisk indicates Candidates whom the N.U.W.S.S. supported.

We have great pleasure in reprinting the following extracts from *The Times* of December 12th and 14th concerning the women candidates who had the support of the N.U.W.S.S.:—

"The added interest which a woman candidate gives to a contest is seen in the Brentford and Chiswick Division, where Mrs. Oliver Strachey is standing as an independent supporter of the Coalition. Her appearance in the field—somewhat late, for reasons to be hereafter stated—immediately transformed what till then promised to be a dull and not altogether edifying election. There is such a sameness about male candidates, as individuals, such an absence of light and shade, and, moreover, they have had the stage so long to themselves, with their often very tiresome disquisitions on superannuated subjects, that the electors are disposed to feel bored; but when a woman enters the lists, the novelty of the situation and the freshness of her point of view combine to banish indifference and apathy.

"It also happens that Mrs. Strachey is an exceptionally good type of the woman candidate. She was educated at Newnham College, Cambridge. Her husband is in the Intelligence Department of the War Office. For some years she has been Parliamentary Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. In the first week of the war she organised the Women's Service League, which recruited 50,000 women for naval and military auxiliary duties, munition and agricultural work, and other forms of national service.

"Nevertheless, Mrs. Strachey has been in effect told by Colonel Grant Morden, the Coalition candidate, to stay at home and mind her children. 'I consider a woman's place is to rule the home,' he says in his speeches. 'How could women be expected to deal with great business and industrial problems in the House of Commons?' However, there appears to be in the constituency a widespread sense of the realities of the time, which brushes aside this outworn prejudice as to the unfitness of women for public life. The predominant questions of the future, Mrs. Strachey contends, are social questions, and in their settlement the knowledge and experience of women are peculiarly needed.

"Colonel Grant Morden has reason to feel sore at the candidature of Mrs. Strachey. A section of the electors was so displeased with his official appointment as the Coalition candidate, without as much as 'by your leave' to the constituency, that at a mass meeting held to discuss the position a committee, representative of Unionism, Liberalism, and Labour, was appointed to select another candidate, and after a full consideration of the claims and qualities of several persons, Mrs. Strachey was invited and agreed to stand as an Independent Coalition candidate. That is the reason of her rather late appearance.

"The favourite in the contest at Brentford and Chiswick is Mrs. Oliver Strachey. She is standing as an independent supporter of the Coalition, on the invitation of a large section of the electors, who were dissatisfied with Colonel Grant Morden, to whom the official certificate was given. Her meetings are always crowded. One of the things of the election most widely resented was the saying of Colonel Grant Morden, 'the lady candidate ought to stay at home and look after her kiddies.' Mrs. Strachey replied, 'She wants to go to Parliament in order to look after the kiddies. They need mothers there'; and Mrs. Henry Fawcett, speaking on her behalf, has said it would be well to have among the 707 members of the House of Commons someone who knew one end of a baby from the other. The candidate herself, however, is not appealing for support on account of her sex. She is asking the electors for their votes, not because she is a woman, but because 'she is a good candidate, and will represent them well."

"It says much for the confidence of Miss Mary Macarthur (Mrs. W. C. Anderson) in the strength of her position here that she has found time to go from the constituency in which she is seeking election to support the Labour candidate who is opposing Miss Christabel Pankhurst at Smethwick. Miss Macarthur, who claims to be the first woman candidate to take the field after the extension of the franchise to women, is held locally to stand a moderately good chance of winning the seat. Her work in the organisation of Labour in this part of the country has stood her in good stead during the campaign, and the large measure of support which she is receiving from workers will ensure that even if she does not win the seat she will poll a very large number of votes."

The following is an extract from *The Daily News* of December 11th, concerning Miss Alison Garland:—

"Portsmouth has never had a Parliamentary candidate quite like this keen, vivacious little woman before. For years the borough has solidly returned a Unionist to Parliament, and the division of the town for which Miss Garland is standing is a stronghold of Conservatism. The woman voters outnumber the men by over 7,000. In a fortnight's campaign Miss Garland has rallied round her the solid middle-class women of the neighbourhood. They turned up in hundreds to an afternoon meeting held yesterday in the largest hall in Southsea, and bombarded Miss Garland with questions."

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS MARGARET JONES.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).

Hon. Treasurers:
MRS. H. A. L. FISHER and
MISS ROSAMOND SMITH.

Secretary:
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Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarter Notes.

Cable from Mrs Chapman Catt.

DECEMBER 12.

TO MRS. MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, 2, Gower Street, London:—"Our thoughts are with you, and we are proud with a great pride as you cast your first vote. Congratulations on your coming of age at last!"

The office is closing on Saturday, December 21st, until Monday, December 30th, so as to give the staff a rest after the rush of the Election work, combined with a liberal dose of influenza. Will secretaries of societies and others be so very kind as to make a note of this, as it will explain to them any delay in the answering of communications? The postponed council meeting, which will now be combined with the annual council meeting, will be held in the last week of February or the first week in March. Societies will be circularised shortly on this subject.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H. Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. Peace has now been declared, but the Sick and Wounded are still on our hands, and will need to be cared for. The Committee therefore urge for continued and even greater support from the public to meet the many demands that are still coming from the various Units. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland" Subscriptions for the London Units should be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
*Per Miss Geraldine Cooke: Serbian Joint Meeting, per Miss Menzies (£50), Falkirk Flag Day, per Miss Menzies (£85) (£135), Bridge Tournament, per Mrs. Courtenay Shiells (£45), Serbian Joint Meeting (£11 13s. 9d.), Miss Holme's Lecture, per Miss Millar (£9 2s. 3d.), Miss Holme's Lecture, per Alex. Muirden, Esq. (£6 14s. 3d.), Miss Walker's Lecture, per G. A. Thomas, Esq. (£5), Miss Holme's Meeting, Edinburgh College of Art (£4 18s. 8d.), Miss Walker's Lecture, per The Very Rev. Canon Horne (£4 2s. 9d.), Miss Grace Taylor's Lecture, Church League for Women's Suffrage, per Miss Lejeune (£1 6s.), Miss Harmer (Flags) (£1 1s.), Portree Sale of Work (additional), per Miss Cameron (16s.) (£224 14s. 8d.), *Less* advanced to Miss Holme for Expenses (£3) (£221 14s. 8d.), Sir John Stewart Clark, Bart. (£100), C. A. McIntosh, Esq. (£25), Miss Campbell M. Currie (£20), R. D. MacGregor, Esq. (Serbia) (£15), Theo. Goodhall Nasmyth, Esq., M.D., D.Sc. (£10 10s.), Mrs. Cairns (£10), Miss A. H. Constable (£10), Mrs. N. A. Ellingsen (£10), M. C. A. (£7 10s.), Mrs. Pelham Burn (£5), John Kirkhope, Esq. (£5), Robert Craig, Esq. (£5), A. R. C. Pitman, Esq. (£5), The Misses Rutherford (£5), Thos. L. Rankine, Esq. (£5), Mrs. Main (£5), Miss Sanderson, per Miss Jacobsen (£5), John Graham, Esq. (£5), Mrs. Vass and Mrs. Nicholas (£5), Mrs. Donald Paton Robert McGowan, Esq. (£5), Thomas Maitland, Esq. (£5), Findlay B. Anderson, Esq. (£5), Miss Christie (£5), Miss Mary C. W. Wilson (£5), Miss Walker's Meeting, per Robt. Croswaithe, Esq., M.A., B.Sc. (£3 9s. 5d.), Miss Margaret Blackburn (£3 3s.), S. Sandys Lumsdaine, Esq. (£3 3s.), Miss J. K. M. Kemp (£3 3s.), Mrs. Tabor (£3), (£5), Anonymous (£5), Robert J. Duncan, Esq. (£3), The Hon. John Abercromble (£3), Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Buchanan (£3), Mrs. Terras (£3), John Syble, Esq. (£3), Mrs. J. W. Mackie (£2 2s.), G. D. Stewart, Esq. (£2 2s.), Charles Price, Esq. (£2 2s.), Lady Robertson (£2 2s.), The Misses Christie (£2), The Misses Gibson Thomson (£2), A. Hare, Esq. (£2), Miss Milroy (£2), Mrs. McClymont (£1 1s.), Miss M. B. Greswell (£1), Mrs. Hunter (£1), Miss Tullo (£1), Mrs. Reid (£1), Miss Edith S. Railwen (£1), Mrs. Stanley Roberts (£1), Miss Alice Wyld (£1), Miss Scott (£1), R. B. Drummond, Esq. (£1), Misses Hewat (£1), John Gardiner, Esq. (£1), "A Soldier's Wife" (£1), Mrs. Grieg (£1), The Misses Wright (£1), The Misses Glendinning (£1), Mrs. K. P. Kirkwood (£1), Dr. Wm. Millar (10s. 6d.), Mrs Kayser (10s.), Mrs. Tennant (10s.), Alexander Hart, Esq. (10s.), Miss Dickson (10s.), Miss Moodie (5s.), Miss Margaret Pringle (5s.), Miss W. Pringle (5s.), Mrs. White (10s.), Messrs. Duncan Flockhart & Co. (£50), Saxone Shoe Co. Ltd. (£10 10s.), Messrs. Craig & Rose Ltd. (£10), Edinburgh Milk Association, Slateford Road, Edinburgh, per Mr. James Low (£2), Darien Press, Bristo Place, Edinburgh, per Mr. G. Brodie (£1)	661	7	7
Part proceeds of Flag Day held in Preston on behalf of the French Red Cross Society, per D. H. Illingworth, Esq., Director General, British Committee, French Red Cross Society, London, for upkeep of "Proud Preston" Bed (Royaumont)	50	0	0
*"East Grinstead War Work Association," per Miss Mary M. Deutt, Hon. Sec.	10	3	8
*Anonymous, per Mrs. Ramsay: "Cornwall" Bed (Royaumont) (£27), Gifts or Clothing, &c., for wounded, or civil population in Serbia (£30)	57	0	0
*Dr. Ada Jackson	5	0	0
Mrs. J. B. MacTier	5	5	0
John Gray, Esq.	1	0	0
*"Parish of Hutton War Charities Committee," per Rev. P. G. Hendry, Hon. Sec.	2	10	0
Mrs. John Baxter, per Miss Etta Shankland	1	1	0
*Rob. C. King, Esq.	1	1	0
*Glenfarg W.S.S., per Miss S. E. S. Mair	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
"Larbert War Hospital Supply Depôt," per Mrs. Sherriff, Hon. Treas.	50	0	0
*Sunderland W.S.S., per Mrs. Mundella, Hon. Treas. October donations: Collected at 4, Bedford Road: Mrs. Common (10s.), Miss Joyce Common (10s.), Mrs. Eliot Common (10s.), Mrs. Walford Common (10s.), Mrs. Garsia (2s. 6d.), A Friend (1s.) (£2 3s. 6d.); Per Mrs. Mundella: Mrs. A. Johnson (10s.), Mrs. Patrick (5s.), Mrs. Eyres (5s.), S. H. C. (2s. 6d.), Miss Panton (2s. 6d.), Miss A. Hedley (2s.), Mrs. Mundella (2s.), Nurse Hinch (1s.), (£1 10s.), Mrs. Dalrymple Smith (3 months) (£1), S. G. (4s.)	4	17	6
*Mrs. Scott	10	0	0
*Peebles W.S.S., per Mrs. Thorburn, Hon. Sec., per J. Ramsay Smith, Esq., for "Peebles" and "Tweeddale" Beds (Corsica and Royaumont)	50	0	0
Mrs. S. S. Stanier	1	0	0
*"From Two Members of the Glasgow W.S.S.," for upkeep of "Vive la France" Bed (Salonica)	12	10	0
Miss C. Watchell	1	1	0
*Mrs. J. J. Sanders	5	0	0
*Miss Margaret Stuart McCrae	1	0	0
Mrs. Tullo		5	0
*Miss I. S. Paterson		10	0
*Per Mrs. Campbell, for "Dornoch" Bed (Royaumont) ...	44	8	2
*Per Miss Fox, for "Werneth Council School" Bed (Royaumont)	13	0	0
Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees and Staff, Saxone Shoe Co. Ltd. (£11 5s.), *Employees, G. & S. W. Railway, Loco. Dept. (£8 10s. 3d.) ...	19	15	3
Forward as per list to November 28th, 1918	354,320	18	9
Further donations received to November 30th, 1918:—			
*George Lauder, Esq., per Mrs. Lauder	50	0	0
Reform Co-operative Society Ltd., Leven	1	1	0
*Mrs. Aird, per William Service, Esq.	50	0	0
*Collected in Glamorgan for Welsh Fund, S.W.H., per Mrs. Thomas, per Miss Mabel Howell, Hon. Treas., Welsh Fund, S.W.H. (Sallanches)	4	10	6
*Mrs. Veitch		14	6
Miss M. R. Wilson	5	0	0
*Mrs. T. L. Paterson, per Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treas., S.W.H.	2	0	0
Miss Neil		5	0
Miss Ethel B. MacKinnon ...		3	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees, Dick, Kerr & Co. Ltd. (31st contribution) ...	5	6	6
*Miss J. O. Ainslie	1	0	0
*Mrs. Boswell		5	0
Miss Minty		10	0
*Mrs. Glendinnen		10	0
*Miss Robertson	1	0	0
Miss J. H. Thomson	1	1	0
Miss Dora Duguid	5	0	0
*Collected by Miss Williamson, for upkeep of "September" Bed No. 2 (Salonica)		12	0
*Collected by Miss Sinclair and Miss Jacobsen, Organiser, for upkeep of "Palmerston Place" Bed (America Unit)	22	10	0
Miss Begbie		10	0
*Leven W.S.S., per Mrs. Reid Hon. Treas., for upkeep of "Leven and District W.S.S." Beds (3)	50	0	0
*The Misses J. & C. E. Hossack	10	0	0
*Mrs. Thomson	2	0	0
*Mrs. E. B. Parker, per Mrs. Wood, Hon. Treas., Kilmacolm W.S.S.	25	0	0
*Miss Beveridge	10	0	0
*Mrs. Hamer	2	0	0
*Mrs. MacLeod	5	0	0
*The Misses Dunlop, per Miss Aspinwall, Hon. Treas., Dunbar W.S.S., for upkeep of "Dunbar" Bed (Royaumont)	1	1	0
Mrs. Carr		10	0
Total	£1,167	2	7

London Units.

SEPTEMBER, 1918.	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	80,911	9	3½
American Collection ...	7,427	13	11
"A Mother"	3	3	0
Austen, Mrs.	2	2	0
British School of Archæology, Per Mrs. Flinders Petrie ...	37	2	0
Cambridge County School for Girls "Bed"	46	0	0
Canterbury Women's Suffrage Society	1	13	6
Falmouth Meeting Collection	2	10	0
Hoc, Per Miss	5	6	0
Iron Trades Employers' Insurance Association, "Seaton Bed"	25	0	0
Johnston, Mrs.	10	0	0
Menzies Graham, Esq., W. D.	10	10	0
Parr, Esq., H. B.	10	0	0
Prye Rubber & Cocoa Plantations	6	0	0
Ramsay, Lieut.-Col.	2	2	0
Samuelson, Esq., Francis ...	500	0	0
Schuster, Mrs. Ernest	5	0	0
Spencer, Miss M. J.	25	0	0
The Serdang Central Plantations	5	0	0
Tracey, Miss. Towards purchase of Piano for Unit ...	5	0	0
Trench, Miss L. J., Towards purchase of Piano for Unit	10	0	0
Warburg, Miss Agnes B. ...	5	0	0
Wilson, Mrs. J.	3	0	0
Woodseats Friends Adult School "Bed"	12	10	0
	£89,071	1	8½

OCTOBER, 1918.	£	s.	d
Barclay, Mrs.	5	0	0
British School of Archæology, per Mrs. Flinders Petrie ...	31	12	6
Brotherton, Bart., Col. Sir E. A.	5	5	0
Burton, Miss Violet		4	0
Canadian Collection	856	7	7
Curre, Mrs.	5	0	0
Dickinson, Mrs. Frank ...	1	0	0
Drew, Miss S. L. H.	5	5	0
Dunkels, Miss M.	5	0	0
England, Dr. E. B.	1	1	0
Fordham, Mrs. Wolverly ...	2	2	0
"Four Hellbron Teachers" ...	2	10	0
Hamilton, Lady	1	1	0
Harrington, Mrs.	1	0	0
Hayne and Smith, The Misses		5	0
Hinde, Mrs. (Donation for 2 months)		10	0
Legg, Per Mrs.		10	0
Lever, Miss	2	2	0
Melley, Miss N.		12	0
Merton Hall, Women's Union Meeting Collection		10	0
Morris, Esq., R. F.	25	0	0
Newcombe, Miss B.	2	0	0
Per The British Women's Hospitals	44	2	10
Petrie, Per Mrs. Flinders ...	25	0	0
Pilkington, Major G. R. ...	50	0	0
Pilkington, Mrs. R.	10	0	0
Poste, Miss M. I. B.		10	0
Students of Whitelands College	1	10	0
Tonkin, Miss		10	0
	£90,156	11	7½

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., next Sunday at the 6.30 p.m. service. Subject: "Love came down at Christmas."

BRITISH WOMEN'S EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION.

INFORMATION and Advice, GRATIS, to Women and Girls of all Classes, Professional, Business, and Domestic. Escort provided for Children and others going to Friends or Situations. Teachers needed for Government Schools Overseas. "The Imperial Colonist," monthly, 2d., 2s. 6d. per annum, post free, gives practical information to intending Colonists.—Apply Miss LEFROY, Hon. Sec., The Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London, S.W. 7.

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Serviceable—that is the keynote of gift-giving this Christmas. You will find an immense variety to choose from, suitable for old and young, in the various departments at Dickins & Jones.

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We have a large selection of excellent designs and models, finely engraved and engine turned, at moderate prices.

Our stock includes all the latest in manufactured Pearls at most moderate prices.

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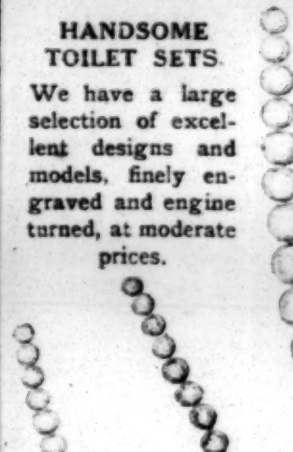
We specialize in Trunks, Dressing and Attache Cases, and have an immense stock of fancy leather goods of every description.



T158. Excellent Reproduction Pearls, usual length. Per row **42/**

Extra long length, 24 ins. **63s.** row.

T159. Beautiful Orient Pearls, graduated, in two lengths. Per row **50/- & 75/-**

T169. Pearls, nice color and shape, usual length about 16in. Per row **30/-**

T141. Smart Brooch for Blouses, beautifully enamelled in lovely colorings. 1¾ ins. across. **7/6**

T154. Sugar Ration or Powder Box for the hand-bag, in good quality silver-plate. **4/9**

T143. Vanity Cases, beautifully enamelled on Solid Silver, with Mirror in lid.

In plain colors, **18/6**

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